

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

FIRE FOCUS

Excellence in Public Safety

Charles A. Richman, Commissioner
Louis Kilmer, Acting Director-Acting State Fire Marshal
Fall 2017

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 13 Issue 2

'FIRE IN NEW JERSEY' REPORT

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety released its annual compilation of state fire statistics showing that 53 persons died as a result of fire and 239 people were injured in 2016. The report, culled from data collected by the Division from career and volunteer fire departments, shows fire to be an enduring problem in the nation's most densely populated state. Six new Jersey firefighters died in the line of duty.

There were 31,944 fires reported, of those 18,623 involved structures. Over 70 percent of those structure fires were residential properties. 66 percent of reported residential fires occurred in one or two family dwellings.

"Our state volunteer and career firefighters continue to answer the call of the public in peril and in doing so, in at least six instances, sacrifice their lives in that regard. The Division also continues to pursue aggressive enforcement of the Uniform Fire Code, comprehensive firefighter training and robust community risk

reduction via public safety education support in a concerted effort to continue to reduce the loss of human life and property in our state," says Acting Director and State Fire Marshal Louis Kilmer.

Wildfire continues to be a not ordinarily associated with New Jersey unlike out west, but a 3,000 acre fire



IN THIS POSTING...

NJDFS "FIRE IN NEW JERSEY 2016"

FALL COURSE CALENDAR

TOURNIQUETS ARE BACK!

SAFER/AFG REAUTHORIZED

OPERATION SAVE A LIFE UPDATE

CFSI 'WHITE PAPER'

FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

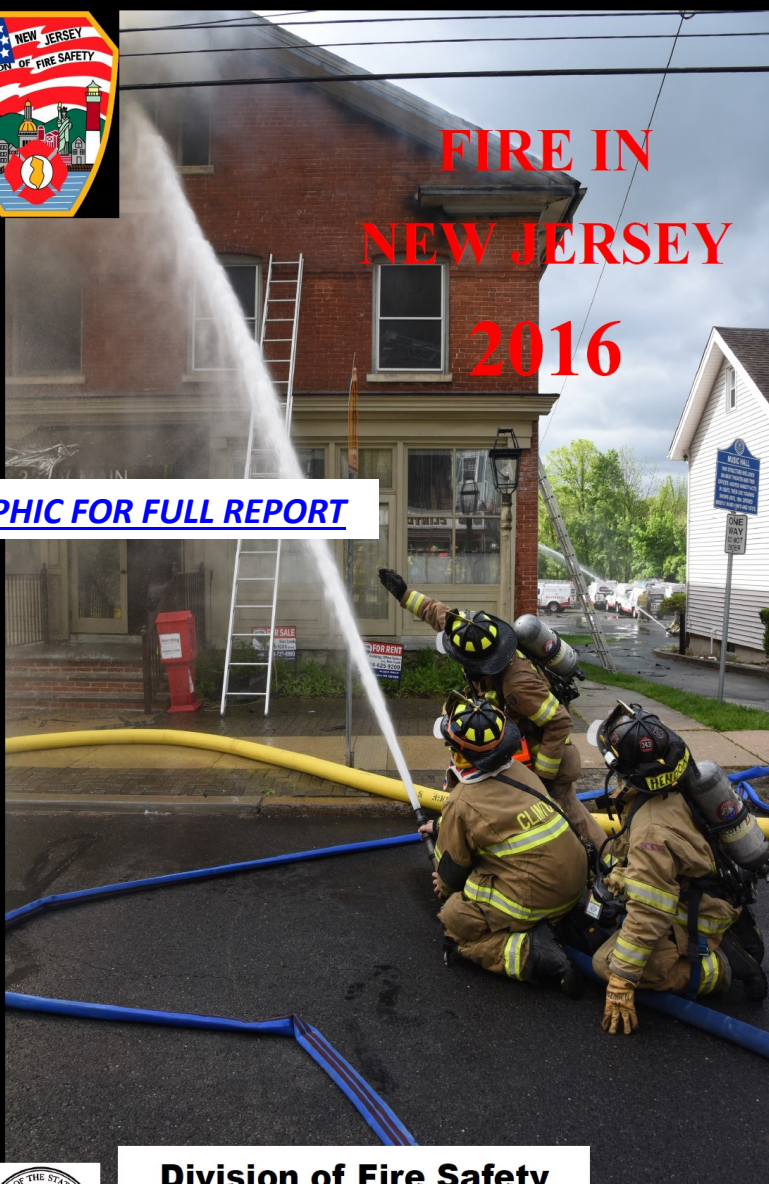
'FIRE IN NEW JERSEY' REPORT

from a lightning strike this July adds to the well over 4000 acres burned last year. Reported fires in educational institutions show 53 fires associated with those facilities in 2016. Kilmer invites interested parties and members of the general public to view the full report on the Division webpage.



FIRE IN NEW JERSEY 2016

[CLICK GRAPHIC FOR FULL REPORT](#)



Division of Fire Safety
State of New Jersey
Department of Community Affairs





CAPE MAY COUNTY NUMBER ONE: New Jersey Fire Safety Commission Chair Assemblyman John Wisenewski (left) presents the award to Conrad Johnson, Cape May County Fire Marshal, joined by Vice Chair, Kevin Krushinski and Acting NJDFS Director and State Fire Marshal Louis Kilmer

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety announced that it recognized Cape May County with a Special Recognition Award for its full participation in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The award, which was accepted by County Fire Marshal Conrad Johnson, was presented to all fire departments in Cape May County for their 100 percent compliance record in the NFIRS program. Many representatives from fire departments throughout Cape May County were on hand for the award presentation during the meeting of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission held at Wildwood Crest Fire Department Headquarters.

“We commend Cape May County for recognizing the importance of the NFIRS program – demonstrated through their full reporting of fire incidents,” said Acting Director and State Fire Marshal Louis Kilmer.

“This information, which is made available to the public, allows fire officials around the state to make the best decisions about fire prevention,” he added.

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is a reporting standard that fire departments use to uniformly report on the full range of their activities, from fire to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to equipment involved in the response.

All departments throughout New Jersey are strongly urged to participate in NFIRS so that an accurate and complete picture of challenges faced by the State’s fire service can be obtained. The data is compiled and organized by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and published in the annual “*Fire In New Jersey*” statistical reports.

The Division of Fire Safety serves as the central fire service agency in the State. The Division is responsible for the development and enforcement of the State Uniform Fire Code, as well as for implementing public education and firefighter training programs.

Editor's note: NJDFS Fire Focus Quarterly invites guest contributors from time to time to speak on fire service issues, and this is no exception, as firefighter health and safety advocate Tony Correia provides an update on those activities.

In November 2014 the Line of Duty Death (LODD) of a fairly young and in good shape firefighter was the final straw. It was that event that prompted the NJ Division of Fire Safety Director William Kramer, Mount Laurel Fire Department Battalion Chief Greg Collier and I to meet to discuss the concerning health issues of firefighter and emergency responders in general. It had come to the boiling point. It was enough talk. Time for action. 2014 was the year we had six firefighters die in the LODD from Cardiovascular disease. There was an abundance of research and data that clearly showed that firefighter fitness was clearly related to the LODDs, as well as their ability to functional adequately on the fire-ground. Enough was enough. Time to do something about it.

Through our brainstorming session that day, we came up with the concept of creating a coalition of fire and emergency services stakeholders to address these issues. A coalition that would become self-sustaining. We also decided to add firefighter cancer and emergency responder mental health to the coalition's mission, since we were also have having alarming rates of deaths from these causes. We also included those knowledgeable of the health issues we were about to take action against.

We wanted as many of the major stakeholders in the state of NJ who were impacted by firefighter and emergency responder death and disability. We included chief's organizations, unions, volunteer organizations. Representatives from the League of Municipalities and the Joint Insurance Fund. Organizations such as the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), Firefighter Cancer Foundation, FirstTwenty and

Firefighter function fitness. FDNY Behavioral Health Section. NJ Division of Fire Safety, NJ Office of Emergency Medical Services, NJ Public Employees Occupational health & Safety (PEOSH) and more.

Our plan was to hold a Health Summit to bring these stakeholders together and develop a strategic plan of how to move forward and address these health issues. We planned for over 18 months to get this project moving. Various obstacles and time constraints kept holding us up from setting a date. The services of Kent Neiswender of NJDFS and Kean University were added to this project by Director Kramer. The assistance of these resources were critical to the NJ Emergency Responder Health & Safety Coalition Summit's becoming a reality.

On May 25th, 2016 the Summit was held at Middlesex Fire Academy. Forty-two

representatives from over twenty organizations attended. We had representatives from New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida. In addition to those already noted, we had representatives from the Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA), Connecticut State Fire Academy, among others. We opened the summit by first recognizing Donna Buscio for creating the Captain Buscio program, a groundbreaking program that allows NJ firefighters to get a physical at no cost to them. The following is the agenda that we followed that day:

***Overview Health Issues of Firefighters
The Cardiovascular Problem.
To develop a long term, sustainable plan to
address the impact of health related illnesses
in the Fire Service.***

The Coalition meets every two months at a physical site, as well as extending participation by webinar. The coalition has now grown to over 50 participants

Firefighter Health and Wellness

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dedicated to improving the mental and physical health of fire and emergency responders.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

-Created a class on the physiological and mental stressors of firefighting which has been delivered 6 times through Kean University to over 100 class participants.

-Delivered 6 NFFF Stress First Aid classes through Kean.

-Developed a report on recommended fire recruit functional fitness guidelines

-Collaborate with the NJ Office Of EMS Safety Committee

-Provided the NJ Division of Fire Safety a Bulletin on Suicide prevention Awareness

-Provided NJ Division of Fire Safety a bulletin on reducing cancer hazards to firefighters.

-Created a resource library.

PENDING INITIATIVES 2017

-Decontamination to Detoxification. Reducing firefighter cancer risks through decon and sauna detox - proposed session for the Fireman's Convention.

-Arranging for a public information presence by permission at the following:

NJ Fireman's Convention.

NJ Fire Districts Association meeting.

NJ Fire Chief's meeting.

NJ Volunteer Fire Chiefs meeting.

-First Annual Fire 7 Emergency Services Health & Fitness Symposium (November-December 2017 time frame.)

-Planned Roundtable discussion at the NJ League of Municipalities. Convention.

-Continuing to provide resources and tools to improve the health of fire & emergency responders in NJ.

-Creating Social Media sites and webpages to share information such as the *Linked In* group discussion:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7056546>

Firefighter Health and Wellness

This coalition is for every level of the fire and emergency services. For every firefighter and EMT. Besides providing tools we plan to be the

clearing house, the go to group to provide you the latest information on cardiovascular, cancer and mental health. Firefighting and emergency response work is physically and mentally demanding. In order to survive this line of work it requires optimum mental and physical conditioning. It is the goal of The Coalition to create an environment that promotes your wellbeing through education, support and easily attainable resources and tools to accomplish these goals.

We can't help others if we cannot help ourselves. Not being physically or mentally fit doesn't only put you in danger it's a hazard to those you serve and the you serve with.

Join with us. acorreia@gmail.com

FALL COURSES AVAILABLE ONLINE



Fall 2017 Training Courses

*for Fire Officials, Fire Inspectors,
Fire Instructors and Firefighters*

[**Click graphic to access online catalogue**](#)

Presented by:

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs,
Division of Fire Safety in cooperation with Kean University





The Congressional Fire Services Institute has just published a 'White Paper' on the comprehensive challenges facing the nation's fire service. The document would be extremely useful for a much needed explanation to lawmakers and local politicians about what the New Jersey fire service both career and volunteer is facing. Contact your local, state and federal representative by email and electronic device and share the link below to the full report.

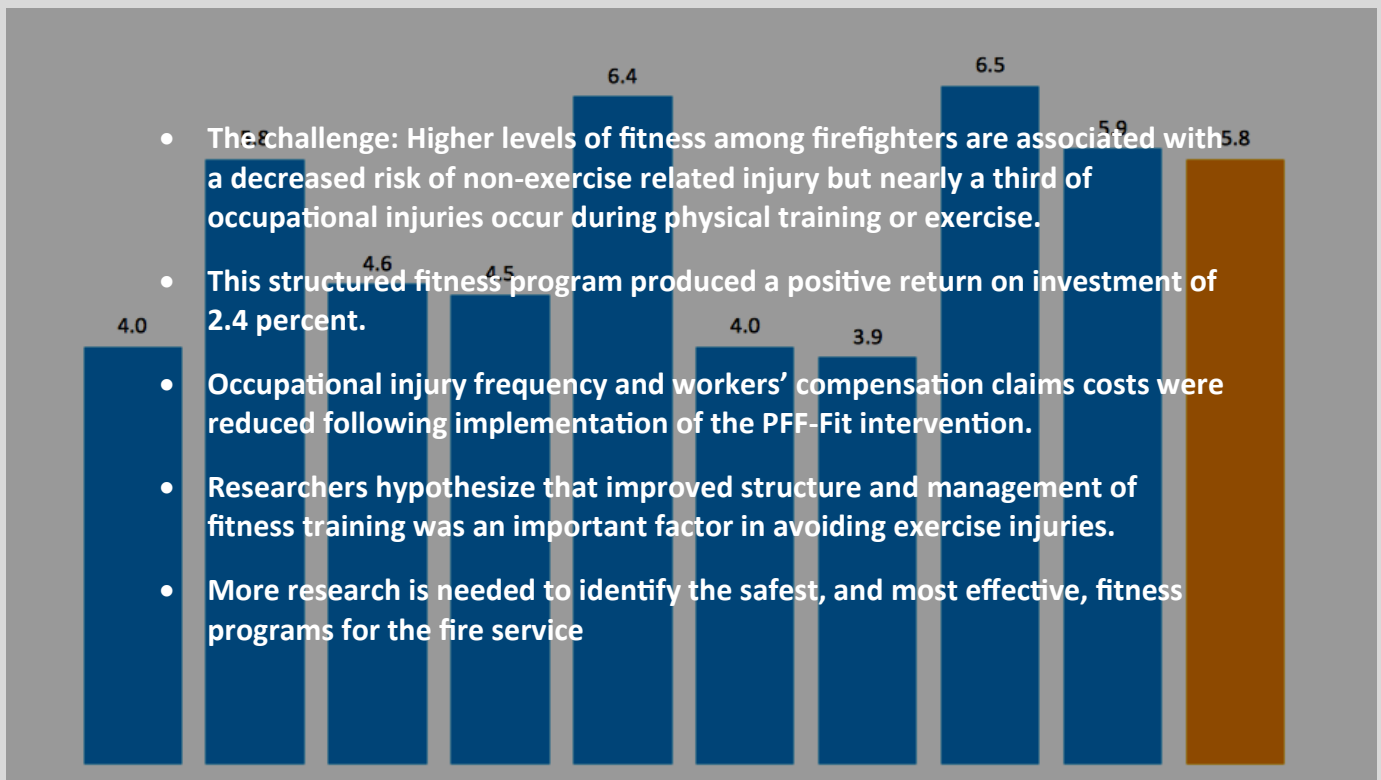
2017 WHITE PAPER

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLES, CHALLENGES & NEEDS OF OUR NATION'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

<https://www.cfsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2017-White-Paper-Final.pdf>

NEW STUDY: FIREFIGHTER FITNESS

A study of the Tucson Fire Department Physical Fitness program for probationary firefighters produced some interesting results worthy of scrutiny by the fire service here in New Jersey. Concerns about firefighter physical fitness are real, however in a largely volunteer firefighter population are they something that can affect recruitment and in a career setting, job performance ratings?



Firefighter Health and Safety is becoming a topic of increasing concern as the fire service struggles with issues related to what is perhaps at times among the most physically demanding of tasks. Read the entire study:

[University of Arizona Tucson Firefighter Study](#)

FIRST ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY SUMMIT

Inaugural New Jersey Fire Safety Summit

For fire service, fire prevention and educational professionals

November 29, 2017

3pm – 8 pm

**Sheraton Hotel – Raritan Center
Edison, New Jersey**

Registration is FREE (including dinner) and begins on August 30, 2017.

Register online at:

<http://www.keanfiresafety.com/community-risk-reduction/inaugural-nj-fire-safety-summit/>

Topics Will Include:

- High Risk Populations
- Youth Programming
- Carbon Monoxide
- Youth Firesetting
- Smoke Alarm Installation and Canvassing
-and many more.

For more information, contact Charles Lavin at Charles.Lavin@dca.nj.gov



Presented by:

Click graphic to register

**COMPREHENSIVE HAZMAT DATABASE NOW
AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO FIRST RESPONDERS**



First responders are well served by a unified effort to make available free of charge a comprehensive data base of environmental, health, safety, hazard and regulatory compliance information. OnPoint First Responders offers any qualified US based first responder free access to aggregated data bases supporting single searches across multiple databases including:

- ***ChemCollection System (over 75 data sources including CAMEO and WISER)***
- ***1st Medical Response Protocols***
- ***CHRIS***
- ***Emergency Response Guide 2016 and NIOSH***
- ***Daily Federal Register***
- ***HazardText***
- ***INFOTEXT and MEDITEXT***
- ***IRIS***
- ***OHM/TADS***

The offer benefits hazmat responders, firefighters, emergency managers and planners, police officers, paramedics or other first responders. Subscribers will be provided free access by registering at OnPointEHSFirstResponders.com

NBFD PROMOTES SAVE-A-LIFE



FO PAT EARLY OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK FD SHOWS THE WAY FOR ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2017 NJDFS-WABC OPERATION SAVE A LIFE SMOKE ALARM DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM BY MAKING CERTAIN RESIDENTS ARE AWARE OF THE PROGRAM THROUGH THE USE OF SOCIAL AND LOCAL MEDIA. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO PUBLICIZE YOUR LOCAL EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN THIS CRITICAL PROGRAM!

The New Brunswick Fire Department has free smoke detectors available to the public, a life-saving tool to help keep residents safe from fire in the home! The detectors are equipped with batteries that will last for 10 years without having to be replaced.

They are available to New Brunswick residents without an adequate number of detectors in the home as well as those residents with old detectors that need to be replaced.

The smoke detectors were provided via the Kidde and ABC Television's "Operation Save a Life" program, coordinated through the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

This program donates smoke detectors to fire departments nationwide to help keep the public safe. The NBFD has also hosts the American Red Cross "Home Fire Preparedness Campaign" which brings new detectors to homes throughout New Brunswick.

All of these efforts are intended to ensure that as many residents as possible possess working smoke detectors, crucially important tools that alert residents of the first signs of fire. Smoke detectors are free to New Brunswick residents on a first come-first served basis.



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW ?



A new study shows that the tone of ramp up alerts at the firehouse may have a bearing on overall career firefighter health. For volunteers in the CAD alert app and stationhouse siren world, it's both different and the same since both will command a tachycardia response. How the alert is transmitted however may be a way of moderating that response. Only one choice however remains and that is to respond.

Click the adjacent image for a familiar tone alert

SURVEY SAID!

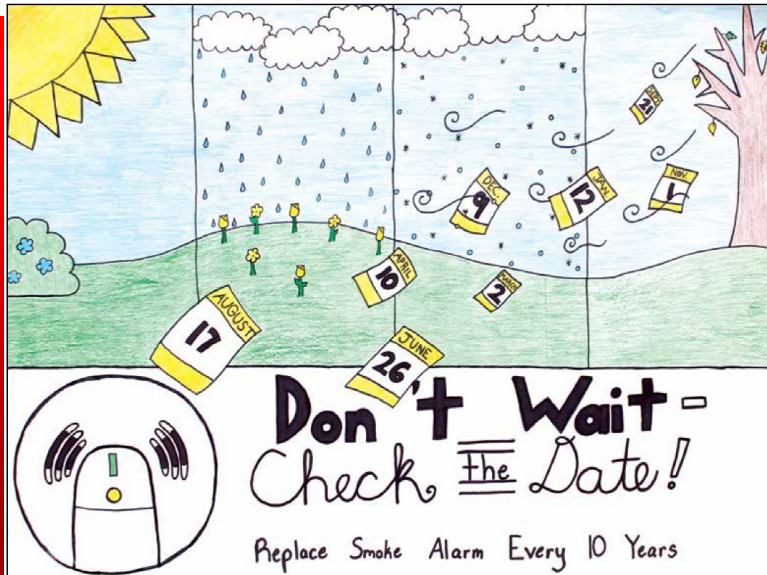
- **Small but significant decreases in the amount of tachycardia response to station alerting can be achieved with simple alterations in alerting methods.**
- **While this study shows some evidence to support the use of ramp-up alerting, additional opportunities for research could include the ramp-up time and the sound levels of the alerting in bunkrooms, day rooms, and apparatus bays.**
- **Implementing station-specific and ramp-up tones plays a role in improving perceived working conditions, and possibly the long-term health of emergency responders.**


[**Read the full study here**](#)

2018 NJ Fire Safety Calendar

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety / New Jersey Fire Prevention & Protection Association

Another successful NJFPPA-NJDFS Poster Contest and resulting Fire Safety Calendar. There is everything in this public education effort as it involves our most vulnerable through high school, their parent/guardians and teachers and finally the public who get a free calendar and a fire safety message each month.



Printed Courtesy of  **atlantic city electric.**
An Exelon Company

All of the artwork in this calendar was submitted for the 2016-2017 New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest. This program is cooperatively organized by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey Fire Prevention & Protection Association. The featured posters were selected from a pool of nearly 10,000 entries statewide.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety and NJ Fire Prevention Association would like to thank the program's generous sponsors:



- Atlantic City Electric
- City Fire Equipment Company
- Fire & Safety Systems Company
- Fire Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices Local 696
- Joshua Marcus Group
- Monmouth County Fire Prevention & Protection Association
- New Jersey Chapter of the American Fire Sprinkler Association
- New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board



Thank you to the thousands of dedicated teachers and students throughout New Jersey who participated in this year's contest!!

TORNIQUET RETURNS AS EMS TOOL



Tourniquet use is seeing a revival in emergency medical response. After going out of favor for more than half a century, military trauma medicine practiced overseas brought renewed interest in their use. Use of Combat Application Tourniquets (C-A-T) on soldiers with traumatic extremity injuries in the past decade “dramatically affected outcomes” meaning, they strongly increased the likelihood of survival. This shift was influential in changing the attitude in domestic emergency medical treatment.

Lessons learned from recent mass casualty incidents, such as the Boston Bombing, show tourniquets as one of many vital life-saving methods used for bleeding control. Just weeks before that incident, a multi-agency group that

included police and fire organizations published a document on responding to mass casualty incidents. The primary conclusion was properly applied tourniquets were the best way to lower the top cause of preventable death in trauma patients, which is blood loss.

The InterAgency Board (IAB) released the Training Trigger [“Tourniquet Use Under Medical Protocols”](#) (PDF, 413 Kb) to dispel some of the myths and highlight the benefits of tourniquet use. The one-page document lists facts about blood and the human body, tourniquet use and application, and the risks of tissue damage. The document goes on to list things departments should consider when they add tourniquets into their medical protocols, and a number of resources for further research.

(From EMR-ISAC)

SAVE THE DATE!

Moving Traditional Approaches
into the Future

**15TH ANNUAL
NEW JERSEY YOUTH FIRESETTER
INTERVENTION CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1, 2017**

Presented by:



**FOR FIRE SERVICE, MENTAL HEALTH, LAW ENFORCEMENT,
SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS**

STATE 'OPTS IN' TO FIRST NET

Governor Chris Christie is helping transform first responder communications in New Jersey by “opting in” to FirstNet. With his decision, [FirstNet](#) and [AT&T](#) will deliver a specialized wireless broadband network to New Jersey’s public safety community. This will make New Jersey one of the first states in the country to bring first responders advanced technologies that will help them save lives and protect communities.

“New Jersey is proud to take this important step for first responders in our state. The decision to join this network means FirstNet and AT&T will deliver a highly secure, next-generation solution for our public safety community, building, maintaining and operating it at no cost and no risk to our state,” said Governor Christie.

AT&T, in a public-private partnership with FirstNet, will drive innovation and create an entire system of modernized devices, apps and tools for first responders. FirstNet and AT&T will:

- Connect first responder subscribers to the critical information they need in a highly secure manner when handling day-to-day operations, responding to emergencies and supporting large events, such as game day at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford.
- Create an efficient communications experience for public safety personnel in agencies and jurisdictions across the State during natural disasters. This includes seasonal hurricanes along the New Jersey Shore like Hurricane Sandy.
- Enhance network coverage in rural areas. This will benefit first responders and residents throughout New Jersey’s topographically diverse landscape. First responders will also have access to dedicated network deployables for additional coverage and support when needed.
- Drive infrastructure investments and create jobs across the State.

- Usher in a new wave of innovation that first responders can depend on. This will create an ever-evolving set of life-saving tools for public safety, including public safety apps, specialized devices and Internet of Things technologies.

“Opting in to FirstNet underscores New Jersey’s commitment to ensuring first responders are capable of meeting constantly evolving challenges,” said Jared Maples, Acting Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. “As one of the first states to opt-in, New Jersey continues to be a national leader of public safety technology innovation.”

The FirstNet solution that will be built in New Jersey was designed with direct input from the State’s public safety community. It includes:

- Taking extra steps to protect the network in hurricane-prone areas
- Improving interoperability for public safety across the state as well as with neighboring states
- Providing feature-rich services at highly competitive rates

The decision enables FirstNet and AT&T to begin creating an entirely new wireless ecosystem for public safety communications. New Jersey’s first responder subscribers will have immediate access to quality of service and priority to voice and data across the existing nationwide AT&T LTE network. Preemption for primary users over the AT&T LTE network is expected by year-end. This means fire, police, EMS and other public safety workers will have dedicated access to the network when and where they need it – 24/7/365, like their mission.

“Governor Christie is making public safety a priority,” said Chris Sambar, senior vice president, AT&T – FirstNet.

NAT'L FIRE ACADEMY ONLINE COURSES



Online classes are a wonderful way to learn at your leisure. Successful completion is added to your NFA transcript and you earn an NFA certificate. A help desk is available for questions, concerns and login assistance.

Online classes fall into three main groups.

You can [sign up for self-study classes](#) at any time and complete them at your own pace. They are not led by an instructor. We currently have 38 self-study courses available.

These courses are led by an instructor and usually last two to six weeks. They require you to do weekly assignments and papers, participate in class discussions online, and read various articles as the instructor assigns them. We offer seven classes in this format. You can review a list of these classes in the [NFA Catalog](#).

We now include online options for many of our on-campus courses. These options may include your final exam, daily reading and posting, student feedback and reading assignments, and other homework. Your welcome package for the on-campus course will tell you how to participate.

We believe that online learning is an important part of the future for our classes at the NFA. Only about two percent (4,500) of the nation's fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel can attend our on-campus classes, but we reach almost 12 times that number of students annually through our online courses.

Take a moment to review our [online offerings and on-campus courses](#). Our free courses target middle and top-level fire officers, fire service instructors, technical professionals, and representatives from allied professions. Any person with substantial involvement in fire prevention and control, EMS, or fire-related emergency management activities may apply for NFA courses .





AT ISSUE:



SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE UPDATE

The House Appropriations Committee approved legislation funding the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2018. The \$44.3 billion spending bill represents a nearly \$2 billion increase in spending for the Department compared to the current fiscal year.

The bill would fund the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs at \$690 million, the same amount as the current fiscal year. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) would receive a slight cut from \$44 million for Fiscal Year 2017 to \$43.41 million for Fiscal Year 2018. The Urban Search and Rescue System (USAR) and the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) would both be funded at essentially the same levels as the current fiscal year. The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) would receive \$630 million, an increase of \$25 million over the current fiscal year.

The Senate approved S. 829, the AFG and SAFER Reauthorization Act, by unanimous consent. The legislation, which was unanimously approved by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on May 17th, reauthorizes the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG), the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), and Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grant programs through Fiscal Year 2023. Additionally, the legislation removes a “sunset” provision in the current authorizing statute that would eliminate the programs on January 2, 2018.





AT ISSUE:

FIREFIGHTER CANCER REGISTRY ACT PASSES



(From CFSI)

The Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously passed **H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act**, which directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and maintain a voluntary registry of firefighters to collect relevant history and occupational information that can be linked to available cancer registry data in existing state cancer registries. H.R. 931 was introduced on February 7, 2017, by U.S. Representatives Chris Collins (R-NY) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), along with 77 original cosponsors. It currently has 179 cosponsors.

"I'd like to thank Representatives Collins, Pascrell, all of the co-sponsors, and the members of the subcommittee for helping to move this critical legislation forward," said National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Chair Kevin D. Quinn.

"Too many firefighters are contracting and dying from cancer caused by duty-related exposures. This registry will improve our understanding of why firefighter cancer is occurring at such a high rate, and make it easier to prevent, detect, and treat."

For years studies have indicated a strong link between firefighting and increased risk for several major cancers.

An extensive study published by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in 2014 found that firefighters were at an increased risk of being diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma and found potential links between exposure to fire incidents and heightened risks for lung cancer and leukemia, among several others.

Past studies examining cancer incidence among firefighters have been limited by relatively small sample sizes and an underrepresentation of minority, female, and volunteer firefighters. The registry that would be created under H.R. 931 would give researchers and public health agencies access to information about a much larger and more diverse group of firefighters, including volunteers.

UPDATE:

*The House approved by voice vote **H.R. 931**, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. The bipartisan legislation, introduced by Congressman Chris Collins (NY-27) and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9), creates a specialized national registry to provide researchers and epidemiologists with the tools and resources they need to improve research collection activities related to the monitoring of cancer incidence among firefighters.*



AT ISSUE:



**NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE
LEGISLATION 2017-2018**



Click graphic for pending legislation affecting fire service interests keyword "fire" or actual Bill number.

IN MEMORIAM

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